



Over half, 62.4 percent, of physician assistants are female while 37.6 percent are male. The average age of physician assistants in South Dakota is 45. Almost half, 48.8 percent, of physician assistants are aged 46 and over¹.



Ensuring a competent and qualified healthcare workforce that meets the health needs of all South Dakota residents...

PROJECTED WORKER NEED

The South Dakota Department of Labor projects an increase of 34.1 percent in the number of physician assistants needed between the years 2006 and 2016².

PERCENT OF VACANCIES AND TURNS

A vacancy is defined as a budgeted position not currently filled, while a turnover is defined as the number of employees who left a facility during the fiscal year. Listed below, are the percent of vacancies and turnovers for full-time physician assistants by year obtained from the Health Care Professional Workforce survey³.

Year	Percent of Vacancies	Percent of Turns
2003	4.1	17.4
2004	9.8	4.7
2005	1.5	7.4
2006	5.7	5.3
2007	3.5	7.5

EDUCATION

Physician Assistant curriculum is divided into a didactic phase and clinical phase. In South Dakota, The University of South Dakota in Vermillion offers a degree in medicine⁴.

HEALTHCARE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The Office of Rural Health administers a variety of programs to assist communities in recruiting health care professionals. Physician Assistants are eligible to participate in the Midlevel Tuition Reimbursement Program, National Health Service Corps, and State Loan Repayment Program. For more information on this program, please visit doh.sd.gov/ruralhealth/recruit.aspx.

LICENSURE

Physician Assistants are licensed through the South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow (HOTT) www.sdjobs.org/sdhott
- Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) www.bls.gov/oco
- O*Net Link <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-1071.00>
- South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners doh.sd.gov/boards/medicine
- South Dakota Department of Labor www.sdjobs.org
- South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health/Recruitment doh.sd.gov/ruralhealth/recruit.aspx
- South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Center doh.sd.gov/ruralhealth/workforce
- U.S. Department of Labor www.bls.gov
- American Academy of Physician Assistants www.aapa.org
- National Commission on Certification of PA www.nccpa.net

FOOTNOTES

¹ South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners

² Labor Market Information Center, SD Department of Labor, August 2008

³ South Dakota Department of Health.

⁴ The University of South Dakota www.usd.edu/med/pa.

Only physician assistants practicing in South Dakota included above.

Physician assistants shown by county in which they practice.

Does not include physician assistants with missing information.

Vacancy numbers are as of January 31st for the respective year.

Percent of Turnover is defined as turnover for the facility's fiscal year divided by current total budgeted positions.

Percent of Vacancies is defined as current total budgeted vacancies divided by current total budgeted positions.

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Building South Dakota's Healthcare Workforce

South Dakota Department of Health

Office of Rural Health

October 2008

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

SD County	Count	Average Age	SD County	Count	Average Age
Aurora	1	59.0	Hyde	1	30.0
Beadle	8	54.8	Jackson	1	61.0
Bennett	1	46.0	Jerauld	1	43.0
Bon Homme	3	42.3	Jones	-	-
Brookings	10	45.0	Kingsbury	3	55.0
Brown	20	47.9	Lake	3	46.0
Brule	3	35.3	Lawrence	10	40.9
Buffalo	1	48.0	Lincoln	8	41.4
Butte	1	59.0	Lyman	1	58.0
Campbell	-	-	Marshall	1	52.0
Charles Mix	5	48.2	McCook	2	48.0
Clark	-	-	McPherson	-	-
Clay	7	38.7	Meade	13	47.6
Codington	10	38.8	Mellette	1	59.0
Corson	1	31.0	Miner	3	39.3
Custer	-	-	Minnehaha	80	43.0
Davison	1	38.0	Moody	1	51.0
Day	3	48.0	Pennington	51	43.1
Deuel	-	-	Perkins	3	50.0
Dewey	5	53.4	Potter	-	-
Douglas	3	37.3	Roberts	2	46.5
Edmunds	2	42.0	Sanborn	-	-
Fall River	7	59.3	Shannon	2	62.0
Faulk	1	46.0	Spink	5	46.8
Grant	1	30.0	Stanley	1	38.0
Gregory	-	-	Sully	-	-
Haakon	1	40.0	Todd	7	50.7
Hamlin	1	51.0	Tripp	2	51.0
Hand	1	57.0	Turner	2	42.0
Hanson	-	-	Union	19	39.2
Harding	1	29.0	Walworth	1	50.0
Hughes	9	51.4	Yankton	10	49.5
Hutchinson	5	51.0	Ziebach	-	-

Note: Only physician assistants practicing in South Dakota included above.

Physician assistants shown by county in which they practice.

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Physician assistant numbers are as of December 31st, 2007.

Source: South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners

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